

SDMS Document ID



2047007

2-02-03 CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION

2-02-03-01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to detail the steps for obtaining a certificate of designation. Certificates of designation are required for those solid waste and hazardous waste disposal sites and/or processing facilities which are presumptively incompatible with other land uses authorized or permitted in a zone district and may have long-term ramifications to the use of surrounding lands. In addition to meeting applicable performance standards, certificates of designation may require the imposition of conditions in order to ensure the number of solid waste and hazardous waste disposal sites and/or processing facilities and their location, design, configuration, and operation are appropriate at a particular location.

2-02-03-02 APPLICABILITY

All uses that require a certificate of designation must be processed in accordance with this section. A certificate of designation shall be required for all solid waste and hazardous waste disposal sites and/or processing facilities that may include, but not be limited to:

1. Sites and facilities where the collection, storage, treatment, utilization, processing, and/or final disposal of solid wastes occurs except as specifically exempted;
2. Infectious waste treatment facilities;
3. Hazardous waste disposal sites;
4. Waste impoundment operations;
5. Commercial composting operations when meeting the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Regulations 6CCR 1007-2, Section 14;
6. Inert fills when meeting the criteria for a certificate of designation;
7. Construction and demolition landfills;
8. Scrap tire recycling facilities with an inventory of over ten thousand (10,000) processed and unprocessed scrap tires; or
9. Other sites or facilities not specifically mentioned herein as may be required by C.R.S. §§30-20-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S. §§25-15-101, *et seq.*, and C.R.S. §§25-15-201, *et seq.*

Only the Board of County Commissioners may, after recommendation of the Planning Commission, adopt a resolution approving a certificate of designation to locate in accordance with these standards and regulations. Only those uses that are authorized as permitted principal uses or conditional uses in a zone district may be approved. The designation of a use as a permitted principal use or conditional use does not constitute an authorization or an assurance that such a use will be approved.

2-02-03-03 WHO CAN INITIATE A CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION REQUEST

A certificate of designation may be requested by, without limitation, any owner or person having an interest in the property on which the facility requiring the certificate of designation is proposed to be located. The applicant has the burden of proof to demonstrate the use fully complies with these standards and regulations and meets the criteria for approval.

2-02-03-04 CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION REVIEW PROCEDURES

A certificate of designation may be approved by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution. Any proposed certificate of designation shall be processed through two (2) public hearings before the Planning Commission, which shall provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (See Steps 1 through 10 below). Upon completion of each hearing by the Planning Commission, the application for a certificate of designation and the recommendation of the Planning Commission shall be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall, after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission, hold a public hearing. The Board of County Commissioners shall then approve, approve with conditions, or deny the certificate of designation based on its consideration of the staff report, the Planning Commission's recommendation and findings, the evidence from the public hearings, and the certificate of designation's compliance with the criteria for approval.

2-02-03-05 CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION REVIEW STEPS

The processing of a proposed certificate of designation shall be according to, in compliance with, and subject to the provisions contained in Steps 1 through 10 of the Common Development Review Procedures as follows:

1. Conceptual Review: Applicable.
2. Neighborhood Meeting: Optional, unless the Director of Planning and Development determines the development proposal could have significant neighborhood impacts. A neighborhood meeting may be required prior to accepting an application for a certificate of designation at either or both

stages of the review process including the initial application and upon submittal of the operations plan and technical report following review and approval, denial, or approval with conditions of the initial application.

3. **Development Application Submittal:** In the case of a certificate of designation, there shall be two (2) submittals. The first submittal shall be to determine preliminary findings of fact regarding use compatibility and siting impact issues. Following the determination of findings of fact regarding land use compatibility and siting impact issues, a second set of submittals shall be made to allow the review of the operations plan and technical report and approval or disapproval of the certificate of designation.
 - a. All items or documents required for a certificate of designation as described in the development application submittal requirements shall be submitted to the Director of Planning and Development at least fifty (50) days prior to the first unfilled Planning Commission public hearing agenda for the first submittal.
 - b. All items or documents required for a certificate of designation as described in the development application submittal requirements shall be submitted to the Director of Planning and Development at least two hundred thirty (230) days prior to the first unfilled Planning Commission public hearing agenda for the second submittal.
4. **Determination of Sufficiency:** Applicable. No application shall be processed if any taxes due are not paid. Upon receipt of a written recommendation for approval from the Colorado Department of Health, public hearings on the operations plan and technical report shall be set before the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. No hearings shall be set if the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recommends disapproval pursuant to C. R. S. 30-20-104, section 3.
5. **Staff Report:** Applicable.
6. **Notice:** Applicable, except that notice shall be sent to all property owners within fifteen hundred (1,500') feet in urban areas and one (1) mile in agricultural areas at a minimum, or greater, as determined by the Director of Planning and Development.
7. **Public Hearing:** Applicable. Two (2) sets of public hearings shall be held before both the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. A hearing shall be held to review the certificate of designation's compatibility with land use and to make preliminary findings. A hearing shall also be held to review the operations plan and technical report.

The Director of Planning and Development may waive the public hearings to determine preliminary findings of fact regarding land use compatibility

and siting impact issues of a proposal upon request of the applicant or with the applicant's concurrence, if the following determination is made:

- a. That due to the nature of the proposed operation, issues related to land use compatibility and siting impact cannot be separated from the information required in the operations plan and technical report; or
 - b. That due to the nature of the proposed operation, the operation plan and technical report is minor in nature and no public purpose would be served by separating the two (2) components of the request.
8. **Standards: Applicable.** At the first hearing concerning a certificate of designation, the Planning Commission shall conduct a preliminary fact finding and consider all relevant evidence regarding land use compatibility and site impacts concerning the application. This hearing shall include, but not be limited to, information of the impact on the surrounding land uses, access and traffic impact, conformance with requirements of these standards and regulations, and conformance with policies of the Adams County Comprehensive Plan. At such hearing, the Planning Commission shall forward a recommendation in the form of recommended findings of fact to the Board of County Commissioners as to whether or not the proposed land use is in accordance with the criteria. The Board of County Commissioners shall then conduct a preliminary fact finding public hearing and consider all relevant evidence regarding land use compatibility and site impacts concerning the application. If the Board of County Commissioners finds that the proposed land use is not in accordance with the criteria, it shall make a finding of fact, and such findings may be the basis of a denial at future hearings should the applicant wish to proceed with the remainder of the permitting process.

After receiving the operations plan and technical report submittal and completing Steps 1 through 7, the Planning Commission shall forward a recommendation of disapproval, approval, or approval subject to conditions, to the Board of County Commissioners of the certificate of designation. The Board of County Commissioners shall then conduct a public hearing. The Board of County Commissioners may approve the request, in whole or in part, with or without modifications and requirements, or deny the request. Approval, if given, shall not be in conflict with the Colorado Department of Health's recommendation, but the Board of County Commissioners may impose any additional requirements or conditions that it deems necessary to meet the purpose and intent of these standards and regulations.

9. **Conditions of Approval: Applicable.** The Board of County Commissioners in approving a certificate of designation may attach any conditions necessary to implement the Adams County Comprehensive Plan and ensure compatibility with adjacent uses or protect the environment. The Board of County Commissioners in approving a certificate of designation

may impose any additional requirements or conditions that it deems necessary to meet the purpose and intent of these regulations, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. A requirement that the facility proceed in accordance with a specific site plan and/or development schedule;
 - b. A requirement of public dedication of rights-of-way for roads, alleys, public ways, drainage and public facilities, and the installation of off-site improvements as are reasonably required by or related to the effect of the facility; or
 - c. A requirement that design and mitigation measures be put in place including, but not limited to, limits on the hours of operation and traffic generating uses; improvements to on-site and off-site vehicular circulation; alternative access or site and open space provisions to address site capacity and resource protection issues; controls on noise, light, odors, and other pollutants; construction of fencing and planting of landscaping; restrictions on signage and outdoor lighting; restrictions concerning the building bulk, height, setback, location, and external appearance; stipulations concerning adequate storm drainage or utilities; and limits on the duration of the certificate of designation.
10. Amendments: Applicable. In addition, the following shall be considered in determining if the change is a minor or major amendment:
- a. Amendments and Changes to Solid Waste Disposal Sites and/or Processing Facilities.

(1) State Review of Type of Change:

(a) A determination as to the type of the change under State regulations shall be made. The proposed change shall be referred to the Colorado Department of Health for a finding of fact as to whether or not the proposed change constitutes a significant change with regard to State regulations.

(b) The State will be afforded a twenty (20) working day period in which to respond. Upon receipt of a determination from the State as to the type of the change, the applicant will be advised of the determination and whether additional information is needed to complete the technical review of the change.

(c) If the State does not respond with a determination as to whether the change is significant or not within twenty (20) working days, the County may proceed based upon its own determination.

(2) County Review of Type of Change:

A determination shall be made as to the nature of the change with regard to County requirements as listed in the certificate of designation and with regard to potential impact on neighboring properties, the general public, or those intended to occupy or use the non-hazardous disposal site and/or processing facility. This determination shall be made by the Director of Planning and Development. The change shall fall into one (1) of the following categories:

(a) Minor:

A minor change from the permit (including approved plans) is one which will have no discernible impact or will have limited impact on neighboring properties, the general public, or those intended to occupy or use the site and facility. No change which has been determined by the State to be a "significant change" under State regulations shall fall into this category. Minor changes are routine in nature. They may include, but are not limited to, corrections of typographical errors in the approved permit; equipment replacement or upgrading with functionally equivalent components; increased frequency in monitoring or maintenance activities; closure of the facility at an earlier than permitted date; changes in information listed in facility contacts or coordinators listed in the plan; replacement of a monitoring facility that has been damaged or rendered inoperable without change in location, design, or depth; changes in the site plan which provide for more efficient operations on site but have no impact on operation methods or the surrounding area. A change to allow additional elements in the wastestream may be determined to be minor provided the waste is not specifically prohibited by the permit, is a common variation in the type and quantity of the waste managed under the facility permit, and does not require a change in methods of operation, additional monitoring to assure public health requirements are met, nor result in a change in reclamation of the site. These items are listed as illustrations and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

Another type of minor change is a change necessary to comply with new regulations, where these changes can be implemented without substantially changing design specifications or management practices in the permit.

(b) Major:

A major change from the permit (including approved plans) is one which has been determined to potentially have a significant impact on neighboring properties, the general public, or those intended to occupy or use the waste disposal site and facility. Changes which have been determined to be a "significant change" under State regulations shall fall into this category. They would include, but are not limited to, change in ownership of the facility, extension of the certificate's duration, changes in the site plan which reduce or change the character of approved buffering, reduction in quantity or quality of monitoring (unless such change is mandated by regulatory requirements), or change in a specific condition, standard, or requirement of the Board of County Commissioners' approval which would change the character of the facility or substantially increase the intensity of use. A change which allows additional elements in the wastestream which are prohibited by the permit, requires a change in the operations plan or the approved reclamation plan, or allows a waste which is not a common variation in the type and quantity of the waste managed under the facility permit, is a major change. These items are listed as illustrations and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

(3) State Review of the Substance of the Request:

If the State recommends:

(a) Approval of a significant change: See Section 4 (below).

(b) Disapproval of a significant change:

If the Colorado Department of Health recommends disapproval of the requested significant change, no public hearings shall be set. The request shall be denied.

(c) Approval of a non-significant change: See Section 4 (below).

- (d) Disapproval of a non-significant change: If the Colorado Department of Health recommends disapproval of the requested non-substantial change, the request shall be denied.
- (e) No comment within the review period on a non-significant change: If the State does not respond with a recommendation on the requested change as to whether the change is approved or not within sixty (60) calendar days, the County may proceed based upon its own determination. The applicant shall be advised that it is the operator's responsibility to assure that the minimum standards of the Solid Waste Disposal Sites and Facilities Act, C.R.S. §§30-20-101, *et seq.* have been met.

(4) County Review of the Substance of the Request:

- (a) If the Colorado Department of Health recommends approval of a non-significant change, and the change is a minor change as determined by the Director of Planning and Development, then the Director may approve the request with conditions determined necessary to assure the intent of these Regulations is met. If the Director of Planning and Development denies the request, the applicant may apply for a change in accordance with the procedure for a major change.
- (b) If the Colorado Department of Health recommends approval of a significant or non-significant change, and the change is a major change as determined by the Director of Planning and Development, the review procedure as established in the Review Step 7 to Review the Operations Plan and Technical Report shall be followed. The request shall be evaluated in accordance with the Criteria for Approval.

b. Information Requirements for an Amendment (major change) to a Solid Waste Disposal Site and Facility:

- (1) Application form and a review fee in accordance with a schedule established by the Board of County Commissioners as provided for in C.R.S. §30-20-103, as amended.
- (2) Plans and written narrative which clearly describe the changes requested and their effect on the operation of the facility and the surrounding area.

- (3) Provision of any other relevant information required by the Director of Planning and Development in order to assure there is adequate information to review the amendment.
- c. Amendments or Substantial Changes and Modification to Hazardous Disposal Sites:
 - (1) For hazardous waste disposal sites, an amendment to the certificate of designation is required for all changes except for changes in:
 - (a) On-site operations.
 - (b) On-site monitoring requirements.
 - (c) Changes as described above in (a) and (b) are subject to regulation by the Colorado Department of Health pursuant to C.R.S. §§25-15-301, *et seq.*, and are not subject to County review unless it is a substantial change. Substantial changes require County approval pursuant to C.R.S. §25-15-206.
 - (2) Procedures for Review of Amendments to a Certificate of Designation for Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites:
 - (a) The proposed amendment or substantial change shall be referred to the Colorado Department of Health for a finding of fact as to whether or not the proposed amendment constitutes a substantial change, as defined in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Colorado Department of Health. The State will be afforded a twenty (20) working day period in which to respond. Upon receipt of a determination from the State as to the type of the change, the applicant will be advised of the determination and whether additional information is needed to complete the technical review of the change. If the State does not respond with a determination as to whether the change is substantial or not within twenty (20) working days, the County may proceed based upon its own determination.
 - (b) After receipt of the Colorado Department of Health's finding of fact or upon determination of staff that the required State review period has expired, a public hearing shall be set. Staff shall appear before the Board of County Commissioners during a public hearing and present relevant testimony concerning whether or not any proposed changes constitute a substantial change.

The Board of County Commissioners shall make a finding of fact based upon staff's testimony and recommendations of the Department of Health.

If the Board of County Commissioners finds that the proposed amendment constitutes a substantial change, public hearings shall be set in accordance with the procedures defined in Step 7 and the findings required by the Criteria for Approval.

If the Board of County Commissioners finds that the proposed amendment does not constitute a substantial change, no public hearings shall be set. A decision on changes determined to not be substantial is made by the Colorado Department of Health in accordance with State regulatory requirements and applicable State statutes.

- (c) If the recommendation of the Colorado Department of Health is denial, no public hearing shall be set and the request shall no longer be considered.

d. Information Requirements for an Amendment or Substantial Change to a Hazardous Waste Disposal Site:

- (1) Application form and a fee of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);
- (2) Plans and written narrative which clearly describe the changes requested and their effect on the operation of the facility and the surrounding area; and
- (3) Provision of any other relevant information required by the Director of Planning and Development in order to assure there is adequate information to review the amendment.

2-02-03-06 CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

The Planning Commission, in making their recommendation, and the Board of County Commissioners, in approving a certificate of designation for a solid waste disposal facility, shall find:

1. The proposed use is an acceptable use in the applicable zone district.
2. The certificate of designation is consistent with the purposes of these standards and regulations and meets the intent of the Adams County Comprehensive Plan.

3. The certificate of designation will comply with the requirements of these standards and regulations including, but not limited to, all applicable performance standards.
4. The certificate of designation is compatible with the surrounding area, harmonious with the character of the neighborhood, not detrimental to the immediate area, not detrimental to the future development of the area, and not detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the area and the County. In making this determination, the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners shall find, at a minimum, that the certificate of designation will not result in excessive traffic generation, noise, vibration, dust, glare, heat, smoke, fumes, gas, odors, or inappropriate hours of operation.
5. The certificate of designation has addressed all off-site impacts.
6. The site is suitable for the certificate of designation, including adequate usable space, adequate access, and absence of environmental constraints.
7. There is a need for the facility in the County.
8. The applicant has documented his ability to comply with the health standards and operating procedures as provided by the Colorado Department of Health, the Tri-County Health Department, and other relevant agencies.
9. The site is accessible to Adams County residents and other potential users.
10. The proposed facility will comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating to air pollution, water pollution, and noise. When standards do not exist for regulating emissions from a particular type of facility, the County will consider whether the facility may impact health and welfare of the community based upon specific facility design and operating procedures.
11. The site conforms to siting standards for the type of facility being proposed.

The Planning Commission, in making their recommendation, and the Board of County Commissioners, in approving a certificate of designation for a hazardous material facility, shall find:

1. The proposed use is an acceptable use in the applicable zone district;
2. The certificate of designation is consistent with the purposes of these standards and regulations and meets the intent of the Adams County Comprehensive Plan;
3. The certificate of designation will comply with the requirements of these standards and regulations including, but not limited to, all applicable performance standards;
4. The certificate of designation is compatible with the surrounding area, harmonious with the character of the neighborhood, not detrimental to the

immediate area, not detrimental to the future development of the area, and not detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the area and the County. In making this determination, the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners shall find, at a minimum, that the certificate of designation will not result in excessive traffic generation, noise, vibration, dust, glare, heat, smoke, fumes, gas, odors, or inappropriate hours of operation;

5. The certificate of designation has addressed all off-site impacts;
6. The site is suitable for the certificate of designation, including adequate usable space, adequate access, and absence of environmental constraints;
7. There is a need for the facility in the County;
8. The applicant has documented his ability to comply with the health standards and operating procedures as provided by the Colorado Department of Health, the Tri-County Health Department, and other relevant agencies;
9. The site is accessible to Adams County residents and other potential users;
10. The proposed facility will comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating to air pollution, water pollution, and noise. When standards do not exist for regulating emissions from a particular type of facility, the County will consider whether the facility may impact health and welfare of the community based upon specific facility design and operating procedures;
11. The site conforms to siting standards for the type of facility being proposed; and
12. The certificate of designation complies with the requirements of C.R.S. §25-15-203.

**2-02-03-07 ACTION BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Upon final approval and fulfillment of all requirements of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of County Commissioners shall issue a certificate of designation in conformance with the decision of the Board of County Commissioners and shall notify the Colorado Department of Health of the approval within five (5) days. The certificate of designation shall describe in detail the use allowed by the certificate, include all specific conditions applied by the Board of County Commissioners, and be accompanied by an official site plan and building elevations modified by the applicant to reflect the conditions of the certificate.

2-02-03-08 EFFECT OF APPROVAL

Issuance of a certificate of designation shall be deemed to authorize only the particular use and development plan for which it is issued. The applicant shall be subject to all other permits required by these standards and regulations to develop the land.

All conditions contained in the certificate of designation shall be binding upon the applicant, and any successors and assigns. The certificate of designation and its conditions shall limit and control the issuance and validity of certificates of occupancy, and shall restrict and limit the construction, location, use, and maintenance of all land and structures within the development. The Board of County Commissioners shall be required to sign the certificate of designation and have it recorded in the Office of the Adams County Clerk and Recorder.